

Board of Early Care and Learning  
Meeting Summary  
August 20, 2015

**Attendees**

**Board Members:** Victor Morgan, Susan Harper, Kay Ford, Phil Davis, Kathy Howell, Jerri Kropp, Sherron Murphy, Judy Neal, Luanne Purcell, Carlene Talton

**Guests:** *Jonathan Harris, Melissa Johnson, Michelle Lank, Lynn Manfredi/Petitt, Barbara Miller, Lauralyn Mustaki, Elizabeth Newcomb, Joe Perreault, Ann Rosenthal, Carolyn Salvador, Elisa Shepherd, Luke Story, Kerri Wilson*

**Bright from the Start Staff:** Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Cassa Andrews, Christie Bearden, Jennie Couture, Woody Dover, Falita Flowers, Janice Haker, Tamara Hall, Carol Hartman, Elisabetta Kasfir, Brandy Locchetta, Meghan McNail, Sharon McPherson, Rob O'Callaghan, Bentley Ponder, Lisa Rambhajan, Rian Ringsrud, Mark Waits, Bridgett Walker, Liz Young

The third meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2015 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the May 14, 2015, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Luann Purcell.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Susan Harper reported visiting Lee County Pre-K and witnessing their use of Pre-K special allotment dollars for classroom materials. She also reported visiting a Head Start program in Dalton.
- Judy Neal reported visiting a Summer Transition Program site in Rex.
- Victor Morgan reported visiting a Summer Transition Program site in Bartow County.

Members of the executive staff provided updates on their program areas:

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented an overview of the federal Child Care and Development Fund and its upcoming reauthorization. She also presented results of the 2015 employee survey and the 2015 customer service survey, the soon-to-be-released Economic Impact Study, and special recognition received by DECAL Human Resources from the Georgia Department of Administrative Services.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on final fiscal year 2015 expenditures, the proposed fiscal year 2016 amended budget and fiscal year 2017 budget, the department's legislative agenda, and the recent follow-up report on the 2013 performance audit of CAPS.
- Elisabetta Kasfir, Child Care Services Program Operations Director, presented on the implementation of DECAL KOALA, online provider self-service; the status of draft rule updates to comply with House Bill 401; and current compliance statistics.
- Falita Flowers, Director of Nutrition Services, presented on the 2015 Summer Food Service Program, including outreach and expansion activities, collaborative partnerships, and the number of meals served. She also presented on the upcoming federal reauthorization of child nutrition programs and on the department's planned activities for the coming year related to Nutrition Services.
- Janice Haker, Head Start State Collaboration Director, presented on Head Start collaboration projects and state recipients of the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Support, presented on the 2015 Summer Transition Program, Georgia's Pre-K 2015-2016 school year slots and classes, a summary of Georgia's Pre-K Week in the fall of 2014, and plans for the upcoming Georgia's Pre-K Week beginning October 5, 2015.
- Jennie Couture, Director of Practice and Supports, presented on Georgia's implementation of the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children as well as the department's other activities to support social emotional development.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, presented on System Reform initiatives, Quality Rated's growth over time, the awarding of CAPS subsidy grants to Quality Rated providers, tiered family co-pays for CAPS, the use of economic development grants in the Early Education Empowerment Zones, and the formation of a Quality Rated Advisory Committee.

Board committees met during lunch. All board committees gave their reports:

- Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed the amended fiscal year 2016 and the fiscal year 2017 budgets and recommended that the board approve the budget as presented. The board voted, and the budgets were unanimously approved.
- Sherron Murphy reported for the Programs and Rules Committee. The committee discussed plans for a Summer Food Service Program summit to be held in January 2016.
- Susan Harper reported for the System Reform Committee. The committee discussed the E3Zs and the Early Childhood Education Subcommittee's recommendation that the state contribute some matching funds to those made available by the Cox Foundation for Quality Rated consumer awareness.

A time for public comment to the board was made available. No public comments were made.

The board voted to approve 2016 board meeting dates.

The next meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning will take place on November 12, 2015.